

July 27, 2006

In Re: Application Number 10/708,995

Art Unit 3749

AN ULTRA-LIGHT BACKPACKING STOVE AND INSULATED CUP

Inventor: Rob Anue

File Date 04/06/2004

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JUL 28 2006

Examiner: Sarah Suereth

Commissioner of Patents

USPTO

By fax 571-273-8300

from 415-446-0192

Sir/Madam:

Responsive to first office action mailed 4/27/2006, Applicant submits

**Amendment A.**

Applicant requests interview to understand applicability of gimbaled vehicle stoves.

Backpacking stoves of conventional design have strong durable cook pots which double as containers for the fragile burner assemblies when the stove is stored within a backpack. In the interest of weight, applicant creates and solves a different problem, how to protect a very fragile and thin light weight cook pot illustrated by a beer can, in a backpack filled with other camp gear. Rather than being stored outside of every other part of the stove, it is stored within every other part of the stove, and can still contain hot liquids in the storage configuration. This can be understood better by handling a physical item during the interview. Applicant requests an examiner interview to better understand the reference to a gimbaled device mounted on a pedestal in a ship.

Applicant submits amendments to further distinguish the present invention.

Applicant cancels claims 1, 2, 3, 5, 11, 12, 13, 14, 20, and 21.

Applicant amends claims 4, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 16, and 22.

**Applicant requests reconsideration of rejection of invertible frame rather than vessel.**

Applicant agrees that it is the inherent nature of a vessel to be invertible to be of use in emptying it. That is consistent with a single function. A frame such as disclosed by Pate is not invertible being mounted to pedestal and has no additional functionality when inverted relative to its vessel. The present invention discloses a single light weight frame with two distinct functions: that of supporting a vessel during cooking and when inverted relative to the vessel serving as a fastener to concentrically compress the sleeve into a thermal and physical barrier. While anything may be inverted, it is an aspect of the present invention that the frame provides a plurality of distinct and advantageous functions having to do with its having a Large End and a Small End. Furthermore the Small End of the frame of present invention is distinguished by a plurality of protuberances or ears that extend beyond the circumference of the cook pot. Applicant has not found a disclosure within the reference Pate 6257125 of the following: a central horizontal member smaller than the diameter of the cook pot with a plurality of protuberances that extend beyond the circumference of the cook pot, or the invertible frame comprises an upper component and a lower component that can be arranged in either a first configuration or a second configuration.

While moving the position of a tray on a second stove is not a patentable modification of a stove having a fixed tray, Applicant submits that a movable, slidably attached tray which moves in order to change function from insulator/protective cover to burner is a novel use which is unanticipated until one contemplates an extremely light weight cook pot. It is the difference between pictures and moving pictures.

Detailed response to Examiner's letter of 4/27/2006.

Para 1: A new oath is attached

Para 3: Claims 6 – 9 are amended to replace cylindrical wall.

Para 3: Claim 10 is amended to replace vertical wall.

Para 6: Claim 1 is cancelled.

Para 9: Claims 1, 2, 3, 5, 11, 12, 13, 14, 20, and 21 are cancelled. Applicant is unable to find a reference in Pate to an insulating band to protect the lip of the consumer when drinking from the cup. Applicant is unable to find a reference in Pate to a separate movable slidably attached tray with the dual function of protecting the cook pot in storage and insulating the consumer's hand. Applicant is unable to find in Pate a disclosure of the vertical suspension means may slide upward along the side of a cook pot to abut the platform to the bottom of the cook pot.

Para 10: Applicant is unable to find in Pate a disclosure of "protuberances extending beyond the circumference of the cook pot through which vertical suspension means of a tray may pass in one direction or another and on which the vertical suspension means of the tray may rest".

Para 11: Applicant is unable to find in Pate a disclosure of a configuration suitable for holding hot liquids as a cup held by the consumer or of storing the stove in a way that encloses the sooty portions from other items in a backpack.

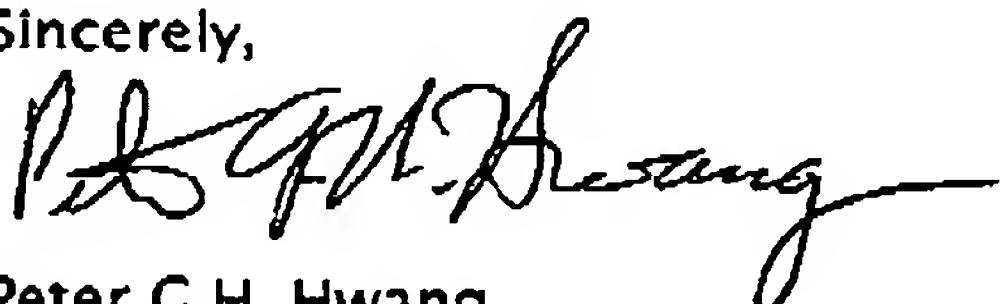
Para 12: Applicant submits that Japikse applies to rearrangement of parts that do not change the function of the item. Applicant is unable to find in Pate the functionality of an insulated cup, a storage system for containing a fragile cook pot in a back pack, or of changing the function of a windscreen to a thermal mitten. The illustration of a beer can serves to demonstrate the dramatic thinness of the cook pot which is so much lighter than conventional camping cookware that it requires an invention to make it practical.

Para 13: Claims 11, 12, 13, 20, and 21 are cancelled. Applicant submits that the claim of 15 applies to the invertible frame which changes functionality according to whether the cook pot is supported by the external surface of the Small End, or enclosed within the interior surface of the Small End. Applicant is unable to find in Pate a disclosure of first grasping the cook pot with a vertical suspension means of a tray in compression and in turn clamping the vertical suspension means of the tray into protuberances of a frame supporting the cook pot. Applicant notes that the present invention comprises a separate tray and frame allowing the frame to be inverted while the tray remains slidably attached to the cook pot in all uses including consumption of the contents of the vessel.

Para 14: Applicant submits that Pate is not motivated to consider Tsai being in distinct areas, the one being shipboard or inside a mobile, unstable vehicle requiring gimbals. Furthermore flexible and folding are distinct because a folding system will crush what is within it which is the problem being addressed by the present invention. Applicant submits that there is no motivation within a ship or motor vehicle to require a windscreen and none at all to provide an insulated cup or storage system to protect the contents of a backpack from soot and therefore no motivation to modify Pate in view of Tsai. A simpler solution to wind in a vehicle is to close the window. Furthermore, the Pate reference requires gimbals and attachment to a pedestal which is unnecessary to accomplish the present invention. Applicant is unable to find in Tsai or Pate the method of wrapping the sleeve around the tray, and cook pot, and sliding the large end of the frame over the cook pot, tray, and sleeve, effectively securing all the parts together.

Accordingly, Applicant requests reconsideration of the first office action.

Sincerely,



Peter G.H. Hwang

Appointed Patent Agent 50265